

In the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (original) A business process managing system comprising:
 - a server device connected to a plurality of client devices through a network, said client devices being installed at different departments inside a company; and
 - an outsider cooperative server connected to a plurality of client devices through a network, said client devices being installed at different departments outside said company, said server device and outsider cooperative server being connected to each other through a network, wherein said server device having,
 - a managing number storage unit which stores a managing number corresponding to the business process;
 - a process information storage unit which stores process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the managing number stored in said managing number storage unit;
 - a technical information storage unit which stores technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow; and
 - a transmission unit which transmits the process information stored in said process information storage unit and the technical information stored in said technical information storage unit to said outsider cooperative server device,
 - said outsider cooperative server device having,
 - a transmission folder storage unit which stores the process information and the technical information received from said server device in a transmission folder for said server device;
 - a receiving folder storage unit which stores the transmission folder stored by the transmission folder storage unit in a receiving folder for each of the client devices of the respective departments outside the company; and
 - an access permission unit which gives a permission to said client devices for the respective departments outside the company to make an access to the receiving folder in accordance with respective conditions.

2. (original) The business process managing system according to claim 1, wherein said server device further comprises:

an electronic stamping unit which carries out an electronic stamping process on the technical information; and

a work flow advancing unit which advances the work flow after the stamping process has been completed.

3. (original) The business process managing system according to claim 1, wherein said server device further comprises:

a template work flow storage unit which stores a template work flow corresponding to the business process.

4. (original) The business process managing system according to claim 3, wherein said server device further comprises:

a work flow alteration unit which alters the template work flow stored in the template work flow storage unit.

5. (original) The business process managing system according to claim 1, wherein said server device further comprises:

a coding unit which codes the technical information by using a coding key received from each of client devices of respective departments outside the company, wherein

said transmission unit transmits the technical information coded by said coding unit to said outsider cooperative server device.

6. (original) The business process managing system according to claim 1, wherein said server device further comprises:

a compressing unit which compresses the technical information; and

a dividing unit which divides the technical information compressed by said compressing unit, wherein

said transmission unit transmits the technical information divided by the dividing unit to said outsider cooperative server device.

7-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A server device, which is used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, said server device comprising:

- a managing number storage unit which stores a managing number corresponding to the business process;

- a process information storage unit which stores process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the managing number stored in said managing number storage unit;

- a technical information storage unit which stores technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow;

- a transmission unit which transmits the process information stored in said process information storage unit and the technical information stored in said technical information storage unit to said outsider cooperative server device; and

- a coding unit which codes the technical information by using a coding key received from each of client devices of respective departments outside the company, wherein

- said transmission unit transmits the technical information coded by said coding unit to said outsider cooperative server device.

12. (previously presented) A server device, which is used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, said server device comprising:

- a managing number storage unit which stores a managing number corresponding to the business process;

- a process information storage unit which stores process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the managing number stored in said managing number storage unit;

- a technical information storage unit which stores technical information formed in any of

stages constituting the work flow;

- a transmission unit which transmits the process information stored in said process information storage unit and the technical information stored in said technical information storage unit to said outsider cooperative server device;

- a compressing unit which compresses the technical information; and

- a dividing unit which divides the technical information compressed by said compressing unit, wherein

said transmission unit transmits the technical information divided by said dividing unit to said outsider cooperative server device.

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) A business process managing method, which uses a business process managing system comprising a server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, the server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing a managing number corresponding to the business process;

- storing process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the stored managing number;

- storing technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow;

- transmitting the stored process information and technical information to said outsider cooperative server device;

- storing the process information and the technical information received from said server device in a transmission folder for said server device;

- storing the transmission folder in a receiving folder for each of the client devices of the respective departments outside the company; and

- giving a permission to said client devices for the respective departments outside the company to make an access to the receiving folder in accordance with respective conditions.

15. (original) The business process managing method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- carrying out an electronic stamping process on the technical information; and

advancing the work flow after the stamping process has been completed.

16. (original) The business process managing method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

storing a template work flow corresponding the business process.

17. (original) The business process managing method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

altering the stored template work flow.

18. (original) The business process managing method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

coding the technical information by using a coding key received from each of client devices of respective departments outside the company, wherein

the coded technical information is transmitted to said outsider cooperative server device in the transmission step.

19. (original) The business process managing method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

compressing the technical information; and

dividing the compressed technical information, wherein

the divided and compressed technical information is transmitted to said outsider cooperative server device in the transmission step.

20. (previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing a first program and a second program, wherein said first program allows a server device to execute a business process managing method, said server device being used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, the first program making a computer realize the steps of:

storing a managing number corresponding to the business process;

storing process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business

process having the stored managing number;

storing technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow; and
transmitting the stored process information and technical information to said outsider cooperative server device; and

wherein said second program allows an outsider cooperative server device to execute a business process managing method, said outsider cooperative server device being used in a business process managing system having a server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and said outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, the server device and said outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, said second program making the computer realize the steps of:

receiving process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process and technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow from said server device;

storing the process information the technical information received from said server device in a transmission folder for said server device;

storing the transmission folder in a receiving folder for each of the client devices of the respective departments outside the company; and

giving permission to said client devices for the respective departments outside the company to make an access to the receiving folder in accordance with respective conditions.

21. (original) The computer-readable recording medium storing the first program according to claim 20, said first program further making the computer realize the step of:

carrying out an electronic stamping process on the technical information; and
advancing the work flow after the stamping process has been completed.

22. (original) The computer-readable recording medium storing the first program according to claim 20, said first program further making the computer realize the step of:

storing a template work flow corresponding to the business process.

23. (original) The computer-readable recording medium storing the first program according to claim 22, said first program further making the computer realize the step of:

altering the stored template work flow.

24. (currently amended) The [[A]] computer-readable recording medium storing a the first program and the second program, which allows a server device according to execute a business process managing method, said server device being used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, the programclaim 20, the first program further making a the computer realize the steps of:

- storing a managing number corresponding to the business process;
- storing process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the stored managing number;
- storing technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow;
- transmitting the stored process information and technical information to said outsider cooperative server device; and
- coding the technical information by using a coding key received from each of client devices of respective departments outside the company, wherein
- the coded technical information is transmitted to said outsider cooperative server device in the transmission step.

25. (currently amended) The [[A]] computer-readable recording medium storing a the first program and the second program which allows a server device according to execute a business process managing method, said server device being used in a business process managing system having said server device connected to client devices of respective departments inside a company through a network and an outsider cooperative server connected to client devices of respective departments outside the company through a network, said server device and the outsider cooperative server being connected to each other so as to communicate with each other, the programclaim 20, the first program further making a the computer realize the steps of:

- storing a managing number corresponding to the business process;
- storing process information for managing a work flow corresponding to the business process having the stored managing number;
- storing technical information formed in any of stages constituting the work flow;

transmitting the stored process information and technical information to said outsider cooperative server device;

compressing the technical information; and

dividing the compressed technical information, wherein

the divided and compressed technical information is transmitted to said outsider cooperative server device in the transmission step.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A business process managing system comprising:

a server device connected to a plurality of client devices installed at different departments inside a company through a network; and

an outsider cooperative server connected to a plurality of client devices installed at different departments outside said company and to said server device through said network.